



THE NEWSLETTER

June 2017

of the **Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Inc.**

Sponsors and administrators of the Troll-Dickinson Scholarship Fund – Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

Massachusetts' Daly among three students in the state to receive grants from the GCSAA

Garske Collegiate Grants awarded to nine college-bound children of GCSAA members, sponsored by Par Aide



Pat and Emma Daly

Lawrence, Kan. (May 30, 2017) – Emma Daly, a member of the National Honor Society and captain of her tennis and volleyball teams at Norton High School in Norton, Mass., has earned a scholarship award for the children of members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). Daly will attend Emerson College in the fall and study speech and language pathology. She is the daughter of Class A member Patrick Daly, the director of golf course and grounds at Framingham (Mass.) Country Club.

Daly will receive \$1,000 toward her studies and is one of nine winners of 2017 Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Grants, established in honor of Par Aide company founder Joseph S. Garske. The program is funded by the golf course accessory company and admin-

istered by the Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of GCSAA.

The program helps children and stepchildren of GCSAA members fund their education at an accredited college or trade school with a one-time grant. The grants are based on community service, leadership, academic performance and a written essay.

“This was a nice surprise,” said Patrick Daly, 47, and a 21-year member of GCSAA. “This is just a small piece of what the national association has done for me, personally and professionally. We really appreciate the award. She can use the money to buy books.”

Anna Deely, the daughter of Class A member Christopher Deely, golf course superintendent at Brookside Golf Course in Buzzards Bay, Mass., was awarded \$2,500 toward her study in facilities engineering at Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Also receiving the top award of \$2,500 was Samuel Stowe, son of David Stowe, CGCS at Newton Commonwealth Golf Course in Newton, Mass. He will be attending the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Other awards winners were:

- Austin Geter, son of Jimmy Geter, CGCS retired from Acworth, Ga. He will be majoring in music theory/composition at Kennesaw State University.
- Jacob Hoarston, son of Class A member Paul Hoarston, golf course superinten-

dent at Ryland Lakes Country Club in Latonia, Ky. He will be studying mechanical engineering at the University of Alabama.

- Adam Kane, son of Robert Kane, CGCS at Rolling Hills Golf Course in Godfrey, Ill. He plans to major in engineering at the University of Alabama.
- Evan McCleary, daughter of Joseph McCleary, CGC retired from Centennial, Colo. She will attend Kansas State University and major in either engineering or business.
- Emily Murphy, daughter of Class A member Mark Murphy, golf course superintendent at General's Ridge Golf Course in Manassas, Va. She will major in engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute.
- Trevor Roznowski, son of Class A member Jason Roznowski, golf course superintendent at Red Hawk Golf Club in East Tawas, Mich. He plans to study biology/pre-optometry at Ferris State University.

“GCSAA's commitment to our members extends to their families as well,” said Rhett Evans, GCSAA CEO. “Through the generosity of Par Aide, we can help the children of our members further their own professional dreams through the Garske grants. We wish these students the best in their educational endeavors.”

“Par Aide is proud to be able to give back to superintendents and their children,” said Dan Brown, Par Aide sales and marketing manager. “Golf course superintendents have a tireless dedication to the game of golf. We want to help them and thank their families for their efforts.”

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Cover Story *cont.*

Including this year's awards, 50 students have received \$79,500 since the inception of the program in 2007. ParAide also increased the scholarship purse by \$4,500 to \$12,000 so that four more students could be funded.

About GCSAA and the EIFG

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) is a leading golf organization in the United States. Its focus is on golf course management, and since 1926 GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the U.S. and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to nearly 18,000 members in more than 78 countries. The association's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. Visit GCSAA at www.gcsaa.org or find us on Facebook or Twitter.

The Environmental Institute for Golf is the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA. Its mission is to foster sustainability through research, awareness, education, programs and scholarships for the benefit of golf course management professionals, golf facilities and the game.

Visit EIFG at www.eifg.org, or find us on Facebook or Twitter.

About Par Aide

Since 1954, Par Aide has been providing superior golf course accessories "Wherever Golf is Played." The family-owned company offers a full line of premium golf course accessories, including tee, green and practice area products, tools, and signage. Headquartered in Lino Lakes, Minn., Par Aide distributes products to golf courses through a worldwide network of dealers.

For more information, visit www.paraide.com



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Thoughts From Your Executive Director *by Don Hearn*



Architect Brian Silva addressing the group

The Alumni Turf Group (ATG) held the Thirteenth Annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic, May 15 at GreatHorse Golf Club in Hampden, MA. Golf Course Architect Brian Silva was this year's honoree. Brian also is the architect responsible for the revamping of GreatHorse. He has created a dramatic layout with mounding, bunkering, and flowing contours that are striking. The owners of the club, the Antonacci family, spared no expense to build an outstanding facility. All who played admired what has been done by Brian and the Antonacchi family. The full field enjoyed the day joining with friends and industry partners for golf and the after-golf festivities. In recognition of Brian's contributions to the University of Massachusetts, our industry and the game of golf, UMass Dean, Steve Goodwin presented Brian with a Norman Rockwell print and words of praise for Brian's contributions. It was also announced that Bob Ruszala, long time board member had been chosen as president of the ATG.



May 23 was the date of our joint meeting, with the Rhode Island GCSA serving as this year's host. The event was held at the Lake of Isles golf club located at the Foxwoods Casino and Resort in North Stonington, CT. Jim Ritorto was the host superintendent and he had the course in excellent condition. It was a beautiful day and we enjoyed our time on the course and the exceptional hospitality shown by our fellow members from the Rhode Island Association.

Did you ever feel embarrassed after you sent an email, a letter, or posted something on social media that contained a mistake? Well, if you're like me, you have done these things and felt like a woefully inadequate communicator when you realized the mistake **after** you sent your message and you couldn't do anything to bring it back. Michael Lewis, an author of popular books, was interviewed recently and had this to say about making errors.

Don't be ashamed of the fallibility, the mistake or error that you make, because you're wired for certain kinds of errors. Instead of being defensive about it and aggressive about other people's errors, it's much better to back off and be understanding about it — just try to understand the kinds of mistakes we're prone to, and adapt to that rather than take the position that we're basically supposed to be right about everything. He added, If you move through life with the thought you have to be correct about everything, you're going to be miserable.

Keep what he said in mind the next time you make a mistake for all to see. It happens oops—happens to all of us and it will happen again.

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PLEASE – DON'T TEXT WHILE DRIVING *By Don Hearn*

At a recent Association meeting a member came up to me to let me know how upset he was about an incident he encountered shortly before he arrived at the meeting site. Because of this, he suggested I include an article in the NEWSLETTER about the dangers of texting while driving. We all know how dangerous this is and how insane it is to do while driving, but reinforcement might drive home how crazy this is to do. Please read what follows – it could change your life!

Nearly 330,000 injuries occur each year from accidents caused by texting while driving.

1 out of every 4 car accidents in the United States is caused by texting and driving.

Texting while driving is 6 times more likely to cause an accident than driving drunk.

Shocking Statistics That Will Make You Think Twice About Grabbing Your Phone

The numbers illustrating the dangers of cell phone use while driving are downright startling. In fact, at any given time throughout the day, approximately 660,000 drivers are attempting to use their phones while behind the wheel of an automobile.

Smartphones have made it easy for us to stay connected at all times. But that can pose serious safety risks if someone decides to check his or her text messages, emails, phone calls, or any other mobile applications while driving.

Cell phone distraction rates are alarmingly high. We hope with a little information, you'll make the right decision when you're on the road.

General Cell Phone Statistics

Note: These are the most recent statistics available

- The National Safety Council reports that cell phone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes each year.
- Nearly 330,000 injuries occur each year from accidents caused by texting while driving.
- 1 out of every 4 car accidents in the United States is caused by texting and driving.
- Texting while driving is 6x more likely to cause an accident than driving drunk.
- Answering a text takes away your attention for about five seconds. Traveling at 55 mph, that's enough time to travel the length of a football field.
- Texting while driving causes a 400% increase in time spent with eyes off the road.
- Of all cell phone related tasks, texting is by far the most dangerous activity.
- 94% of drivers support a ban on texting while driving.
- 74% of drivers support a ban on hand-held cell phone use.

Teen Driver Cell Phone Statistics

- 11 teens die every day as a result of texting while driving.
- According to a AAA poll, 94% of teen drivers acknowledge the dangers of texting and driving, but 35% admitted to doing it anyway.

- 21% of teen drivers involved in fatal accidents were distracted by their cell phones.
- Teen drivers are 4x more likely than adults to get into car crashes or near-crashes when talking or texting on a cell phone.
- A teen driver with only one additional passenger doubles the risk of getting into a fatal car accident. With two or more passengers, they are 5x as likely.

2013 U.S. Cell Phone and Driving Statistics

- In 2013, 3,154 people were killed in distraction-related crashes.
- About 424,000 people were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver.
- In 2013, 10% of all drivers ages 15 to 19 involved in fatal accidents were reported to be distracted at the time of the crash.

2012 U.S. Cell Phone and Driving Statistics

- In 2012, 3,328 people were killed in distraction-related crashes.
- About 421,000 people were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver.
- In 2012, 11% of drivers under age 20 involved in fatal accidents were reported to be distracted at the time of the crash.
- One-fourth of teenagers respond to at least one text message every time they drive and 20% of teens and 10% of parents report having multi-text message conversations while driving.

2012 National Survey on Distracted Driving Attitudes and Behaviors

- Nearly half (48%) of drivers admit to answering their cell phones while driving.
- Of those who answered their phones while driving, 58% of drivers continued to drive while talking on the phone.
- In the survey, 24% of drivers reported that they are willing to make a phone call while driving.
- One in 10 drivers surveyed said that, at least sometimes, they send text messages or emails while driving.
- Of the drivers surveyed, 14% said they read text messages or emails while driving.
- A majority of respondents supported laws that banned talking on cell phones, texting, or emailing while driving.

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Golf course lakes and ponds are aesthetically pleasing features, provide a challenge to golfers and often serve as vital irrigation sources for watering turf. Managing a golf course lake or pond, however, can be complicated. These aquatic ecosystems need dedicated care in order to maintain healthy water quality, effective algae and nuisance aquatic weed control and an abundance of beneficial vegetation. SÖlitude Lake Management is committed to providing full service lake and pond management solutions to communities and golf courses throughout the US. Our deep devotion and approach to beautiful, healthy waterbodies is unmatched.

SÖlitude's Annual Advantage. Golf course lakes and ponds are the catchall for nutrient runoff from fertilizer as well as for other natural organic debris, which pollutes water and results in unsightly algae blooms, invasive aquatic weeds and foul odors. Our comprehensive program of year-round preventative care helps to ensure that your waterbodies remain healthy. Our experts don't just treat issues you already have using herbicides, we implement proactive, eco-friendly solutions like aeration, nutrient reduction and beneficial buffer plantings. This keeps your course looking great and saves you money in the long run.

Customized Solutions for Golf Course Lakes and Ponds. "Cookie cutter solutions" are no way to manage a lake or pond, and this is particularly true when it comes to managing the aquatic resources on your golf course. Golf course ponds often serve as an irrigation source for watering the turf, which limits herbicide compatibility and makes nutrient management all the more important. Another complication is that while lakes and ponds are an important component of the golf course, the majority of the budget is allocated to essential maintenance of the turf. For our golf course clients, we perform a detailed site assessment to establish a baseline understanding of the current conditions. We then focus on sustainable and cost-effective strategies that will allow them to meet their goals for both their ponds and their turf.



Technology and Expertise. SÖlitude uses the most advanced innovations on the market to keep your aquatic ecosystem thriving. And our team is comprised of a diverse group of licensed aquatic ecologists and biologists, environmental scientists, and fisheries and wildlife biologists who are ready to assist your lake and pond management needs.

Sustainability Pledge. With proactive ecologically balanced approaches, stringent recycling practices, eco-friendly solutions to reduce herbicide and pesticide dependency, and most importantly, a strong environmental sustainability culture within our company, we help you let nature do what it does best.

The Knowledge Bank. You will always have access to the best resources, the latest advancements, any changes in regulations, seasonal strategies, the top products on the market and the most effective solutions for water quality management. You should always feel confident and well-informed in all aspects of your lake and pond management, not just what is obvious to you on the surface. Download our free informative guides: www.solitudelakemanagement.com/education.

For lake and pond management solutions needed to maintain a thriving, sustainable aquatic habitat on your golf course, visit us online at www.solitudelakemanagement.com/golf or call 888.480.LAKE (5253) to speak with an expert.

Debunking Myths: A Professional's Take on Herbicides and Algaecides

by Trent Nelson Aquatic Specialist at SOLitude Lake Management

It's not uncommon when managing ponds used for irrigation to invest thousands of dollars on irrigation pumps, water testing, submersed aeration systems, and fountains, but it's rare to find a manager who establishes and uses a comprehensive lake management plan. Often times, this apprehension is based on a misconception that herbicides and algaecides could potentially have a negative impact on the waterbody. I'm here to set the record straight and let you know that with the proper choice of a product, application methods and timing, algaecides and herbicides can greatly enhance the effectiveness of a pond management program, even when irrigation is a consideration.

Many turf and golf managers fear that herbicide and algaecide treatments to their irrigation ponds could result in damage to their greens and the surrounding ornamentals, or put a hold on their irrigation water usage. These concerns are valid; shutting down an irrigation system for more than a day or two can be virtually impossible, especially during the growing season. But without proper treatment, an irrigation lake could experience more harm than good. If algae and aquatic weeds are allowed to grow and mature, this vegetation can enter intakes, clogging pipes and pumps and preventing irrigation systems from running properly. In the end, the headache of shutting down an irrigation system to fix a broken pipe or clear vegetation from a line will often outweigh the inconvenience of scheduled beneficial treatments. Algae buildup in the lines and irrigation heads can cause significant maintenance issues.

Product selection is critical when making the decision to treat any waterbody, especially if it is an irrigation source. There are two common types of herbicides: contact and systematic.

Contact herbicides typically have short or even no irrigation restrictions as they quickly control the target species and are rendered inactive shortly after application. While very effective when used properly, improper use can result in a sudden and dangerous depletion of dissolved oxygen in

the waterbody. Low oxygen levels can create a stressed environment for fish and other aquatic life.

Systemic herbicides, on the other hand, are translocated throughout the targeted plant, controlling the target plant from the inside out. Systemic herbicides utilized in a prescription-based treatment plan developed by a lake management professional can result in targeted species control and have little to no impact on other plant life. While these products usually take longer to target vegetation and can sometimes require extended irrigation restrictions, they are typically the best choice for overrun waterbodies when paired with a proactive management plan that includes aeration, buffer management and nutrient remediation.

When applied within label guidelines, these products have proven to be effective without altering water quality. That being said, no two waterbodies are the same. Water chemistries and application styles can vary greatly from pond to pond, and not knowing how to alter application rates accordingly can have adverse effects on the aquatic ecosystem. It's worth consulting a knowledgeable lake professional who is experienced in the process of algae and aquatic weed treatments. Before the application of EPA regulated herbicides or algaecides, a professional will conduct water quality tests in order to fully understand the water chemistry, dissolved oxygen levels, pH, alkalinity and other important parameters. Water quality can be the deciding factor on what products are utilized, the rates at which they are used and specific application techniques. Water testing should also be part of your annual maintenance plan in order to compile critical baseline data. Over time, this data will provide a better understanding of potential nutrient loading and other water quality parameters.

When using herbicides and algaecides, a lake management professional will also consider the timeframe in which they are applied. If left unmanaged for too long, weeds and algae that have reached a mature size or growth stage may require more staggered treatments, using more herbicides and

algaecides and, ultimately, causing longer restricted water use periods. Much like pre-emergent weed treatments in a turf setting, successfully treating weeds is much easier before they begin to present an issue or when they are young and just beginning to actively grow. Applications performed early in the growing season allow for limited impact to irrigation during a lower water use period, and can more effectively prevent clogged irrigation pumps throughout the rest of the season. Some systemic herbicides can be applied early enough in the growth stage that only low concentrations of herbicide are needed to effectively kill emerging plant tissue, and may even have no irrigation restrictions.

As an aquatic specialist and former assistant golf course superintendent, I've found that being proactive—not reactive—in the industry will provide for better playing conditions and increased turf, lake and pond health. When your livelihood is on the line, why wait until an obstacle presents itself to address the source of the problem? A proactive, long-term management plan provides solutions that can help reduce the ongoing reliance on pesticide treatments and enhance the beauty of the surrounding area. Such a plan will include alternative ways to combat nutrient loading and nuisance aquatic vegetation growth. Beneficial buffers and the addition of native wetland plants along the shoreline can help stabilize and reduce erosion, and filter available nutrients on which algae and nuisance weeds thrive. If water quality testing shows that nutrients are an issue, nutrient remediation can be achieved by the addition of flocculants such as Alum or a unique lanthanum modified clay which permanently locks phosphorous, reducing available nutrients in the water column and sediment of your waterbody. Aerators and fountains combined with biological augmentation can also aid in nutrient remediation as well as muck reductions.

No matter your budget, location or intended waterbody use, it is possible to develop a safe and effective management plan for your lake or pond that includes the use of herbicides and algaecides. Professional lake

management companies have the knowledge, tools and experience to ensure that appropriate rates, timing, application methods, and water chemistry are properly taken into account throughout the treatment of your waterbody. When working with a professional, lake and pond managers should rest assured that herbicide and algaecide applications will enhance, not harm, their waterbody and surrounding ecosystem.

Trent Nelson is an experienced Aquatic Specialist with SOLitude Lake Management, an environmental firm providing a full array of superior lake, pond, and fisheries management services and solutions. He can be reached through the website, www.solitudelakemanagement.com.

E-Z-GO honors Five Star Golf Cars & Utility Vehicles

New Hampshire-based distributor serves facilities throughout New England and upstate New York.

May 16, 2017

E-Z-GO has recognized **Five Star Golf Cars & Utility Vehicles** as its Distributor of the Year. E-Z-GO and Five Star have enjoyed a strong partnership for almost a decade. Headquartered in Laconia, N.H., Five Star offers the full line of E-Z-GO and Cushman products, serving golf facilities and individual owners throughout New England and upstate New York.

"To achieve Distributor of the Year, Five Star Golf Cars & Utility Vehicles exceeded its performance in several sales and new business objectives measured by our business," said Sandy Baggiano, director of distributors for Textron Specialized Vehicles' Golf business, which sells E-Z-GO and Cushman products to golf courses and resorts worldwide. "We are thrilled to honor Five Star with this distinction and recognize its dedication and commitment to the customer."

won three additional awards presented at a recent distributor meeting.

"2016 was a pinnacle year for our business, and this award demonstrates the remarkable efforts of our team," said Matt McDonald, owner of Five Star Golf & Utility Vehicles. "I am exceptionally proud of the customer relationships we have built over time.

"E-Z-GO and Cushman vehicles offer unmatched performance and savings benefits to our golf customers, and for us that's important," McDonald said. "We look forward to continuing our relationship with the E-Z-GO and Cushman brands for many years to come."



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June 2017





In my travels around the Northeast and throughout the country, I've noted that the status of the golf industry continues to be a hotbed topic of conversation. As an industry we are continually addressing issues related to the environment, player growth, agronomic practices, regulatory pressures and many others, but we have always been united in our sup-

port of outreach and education. Our commitment is evident in countless community and national programs, and strengthened immeasurably by the involvement of every golf professional, facility and allied organization.

The success of the 2017 National Golf Day exemplifies the value of collaboration within our industry and the progress that can be achieved by working together. While this massive undertaking every year encompasses all the allied groups we are most familiar with: CMAA, GCSAA, NGCOA, PGA TOUR, The PGA of America, USGA, U.S Golf Manufacturers Council and the World Golf Foundation, it is important to understand that they are not the only ones benefitting or advocating for our game and turfgrass management.

Below is a small collection of initiatives that too often fly under the radar but with further support, could be even more amazing and beneficial to all of us who love the game.

Wee One Foundation

The Wee One Foundation was founded in 2004, when friends of Wayne Otto, CGCS, banded together to financially assist him in his battle with cancer. Wayne was a pioneer in the turf industry, always searching for new and better ways to produce a finer playing surface. As Wayne learned more about his disease, he applied those same pioneering principles to overcome his illness.

Through the perseverance and hard work of several of Wayne's friends, a mission was developed to help those in need. Founded on the principle of assisting golf course management professionals (or their dependents) who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship or who are without comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources, the Foundation has evolved into a cause that goes way beyond its initial reason for existence.

Since its inception, the Wee One Foundation has gifted over \$1,000,000 to those in need. The Foundation raises money through its membership, golf outings and sponsorships.

If you need help or know someone who does, visit the Foundation website at www.weeone.org

The First Green

The First Green is an innovative environmental education outreach program that uses golf courses as environmental learning labs. The program has extensive resources for golf course superintendents, including online lesson plans, and facilitates connections between golf courses and local schools and science/horticulture teachers.

Golf superintendents, course staff and/or local industry representatives (such as regional associations and members) host students on field trips, where they test water quality, collect soil samples, identify plants, preserve wildlife habitats, assist in stream-bed restoration and learn about the ecology, conservation and environmental aspects of golf courses. The kids also visit the practice green or hit balls at the driving range – giving them their first taste of the game.

First Green has been providing STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning labs since 1997. To learn more about The First Green, or to read about a 2013 field trip, visit The First Green (www.thefirstgreen.org) or the Connecticut Clippings newsletter (www.cagcs.com/pdf/ctclippings_june13.pdf).

Project EverGreen

Project EverGreen is a national non-profit organization committed to creating a greener, cooler earth by supporting the creation, renovation and revitalization of managed recreational and athletic green spaces that result in healthier, happier people. Initiatives include GreenCare for Troops, SnowCare for Troops and "Healthy Turf. Healthy Kids."

Project EverGreen's GreenCare for Troops and SnowCare for Troops programs provide complimentary lawn and landscape services, and snow and ice removal services for the families of currently deployed military personnel, as well as post 9/11 disabled veterans with a service-connected disability.

Studies confirm there is significant value in having children spend time outdoors playing, and Project EverGreen's "Healthy Turf. Healthy Kids." has its sights set on restoring and revitalizing green spaces, including sports fields and parks, for children to play, exercise and connect.

To learn more about Project EverGreen and how you can participate, visit www.projectevergreen.org.

The Grass Roots Initiative

The U.S. National Arboretum's Grass Roots Initiative is a four-year, in-depth look at the science behind this familiar, but often misunderstood, landscape plant.

The exhibit opened in October 2014 with 12 interactive displays, and two more were added the following year. Each section provides information about the uses of turfgrass, its importance to modern society, its history and best management practices for maintenance.

Among the displays are a compact golf hole, sports fields, lawn areas with swards of six warm-season and four cool-season turfgrass species, more than 30 different ornamental grass species, and a rain garden showing the ability of grass to absorb water and nutrients.

To learn more about the National Arboretum's turf display, visit www.usna.usda.gov/Education/turfgrass.

Please understand that this is not a plea to support each of the above initiatives. In some form or fashion, GCSAA already has a relationship with these groups, so you as members do too! This information is offered simply to keep you informed of the resources available to you and benefitting you.

Should you need help as you get started growing the game by hosting a local school, or working to benefit a local service member, just understand you are not alone. There are resources and people ready, able and quite willing to assist you in achieving your goal. Now you know who and how to ask!

GCSAA Resources and Deadlines

you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already

GCSAA welcomes Bayer Environmental Science as presenting sponsor for Can Am Cup golf event

Bayer Environmental Science will be the presenting sponsor of the Can Am Cup, the upcoming Canada versus United States golf competition between golf course superintendents. The point-quota competition will be held in New Jersey, Oct. 22-24, at two championship golf clubs: Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield and Canoe Brook Country Club in Summit. Registration will open online at 1 p.m. (Eastern), June 20, for members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA). Look for more information at www.thecanamcup.com. Space is limited and will be capped at 240 players. The participants, who will be paired according to USGA or Golf Canada official handicaps, will enjoy two rounds of golf and have the opportunity to earn education points.

GCSAA Investigating Political Action Committee

GCSAA is exploring the launch of a political action committee in the fall of 2017. During 2016, government affairs staff presented the concept of a GCSAA PAC to the Government Affairs Committee, GCSAA Board of Directors and chapter delegates, and are now seeking feedback from the general membership on a GCSAA PAC. More information, and to view videos [follow this link](#). BE SURE TO PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK!

GCSAA partners with Columbia Sportswear for member discounts

GCSAA and Columbia Sportswear Company, an industry leader for outdoor apparel and products, have joined in a partnership to bring savings to association members and their facilities. Columbia is offering a 50 percent discount to GCSAA members on outdoor wear purchases. [Read more](#)

2018 Dog Days of Golf Calendar

Submissions for the 2018 Dog Days of Golf Calendar will be accepted through **Aug. 1, 2017**. From the submissions, 14 dogs will be selected. Owners of the selected dogs will be notified in September, and the calendar will be distributed with the November issue of GCM magazine.

Plan now to stop by the LebanonTurf booth at the [Golf Industry Show](#) in February to place your vote for the 2018 Dog of the Year. The winner's owner will receive a \$500 prize and \$3,000 for his or her GCSAA-affiliated chapter. A \$2,000 charitable donation will also be made by GCSAA and LebanonTurf in honor of the winner. <http://www.gcsaa.org/dog-calendar/submit-dog-calendar-photo>

Upcoming FREE webcasts:

June 27: Sustaining Warm-Season Turf Health under Restricted Irrigation and Traffic Stress
Ben Wherley, Ph.D. (presented by Intelligro)

July 6: [Impacting Agronomic Practices on a Daily Basis from Your Shop – equipment management series](#)
Ed Nangle, Ph.D.

Aug. 3: [How Turf Fans Impact Putting Green Health](#)
David McCall, Ph.D.

Sept. 12: [First Green & Equipment Managers: Growing the Game – equipment management series](#)
Karen Armstead, Ph.D. and Cathy Relyea

Again, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Kevin Doyle

GCSAA Field Staff

kdoyle@gcsaa.org

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Recent Advancements in Irrigation Technology

By: Tom Hoffer, Irrigation Service Manager, Northeast Golf & Turf Supply

One of the exciting things about our industry is the advancement of new technologies, whether its maintenance equipment, fungicides, insecticides, or fertilizers, these new products help Superintendents by giving them more options to choose from in their maintenance practices.

New technology in irrigation is especially exciting, due in no small part to the recent advancements in computers and smart phones. Desktops, laptops, and smart phones keep getting smaller and more compact, but get smarter, faster, and more durable with each new generation that comes out. The iPhone you hold in your hand now has more memory and computing speed than the popular Apple iMac desktop from the year 2000.

Software has also made huge advancements in the past few years, Windows 7 and 10 have been almost bullet proof in their operation and reliability. Gone are the days of the dreaded blue screen in Windows 98 and 2000 after those software programs crashed in the middle of the night during your overnight irrigation cycle.

Most golf course irrigation systems that have a central computer can now also be operated remotely via smart phone or laptop. This

technology allows the operator to turn heads on/off, make changes to overnight programs, check system status, or troubleshoot all from your mobile or smart device.

Due to the advancements in central performance and reliability and mobile operation, two-wire or decoder systems have gained in popularity over the past five to ten years. Decoder systems have been around since the late 1970s, but have always lacked in popularity to satellite systems. This was due to the poor performance of centrals and the preference of Superintendents to have the backup capabilities of field satellites. Recent market trends in the industry show that 80% of new systems being designed by irrigation consultants are two-wire systems. Compare that to five years ago when only 20% of new systems were being designed two-wire.

Where do we go from here? The integration of sensors, weather stations and drones into your irrigation system are all either currently possible or coming very soon. The ability to measure flow or monitor moisture, temperature or salinity via smart rotors is also very possible. With each new generation of computer and smart phone, new doors are unlocked and this trickles down to the golf course irrigation world.

Back Issues!



Past issues of the NEWSLETTER are available using this link: <http://bit.ly/GCSANEnewsletters>.

As in the past, *The Newsletter* continues to invite Affiliate members to submit a press release about new personnel, new products or a company bio. We will print each and every release **free of charge**. This is a great way to advertise for free. Who said nothing in this world is free? Free advertising to better your company, wow what an offer.

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